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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

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Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 21. Regular programme of technical cooperation

1. At its 20th and 22nd meetings, on 24 and 25 June 1997, the Committee considered section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed their support for the proposals under this section. Some delegations stressed the importance of the section for the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Several delegations were of the view that paragraph 21.3 of the document should be revised to include an indication that the activities of the section should be carried out for the benefit of all developing countries.

3. Many delegations supported the proposed allocation of additional resources under section 21, especially for crime prevention and criminal justice and for the drug control programme. Many delegations expressed concern at the imbalance observed in the distribution of resources within the programme. The same delegations also regretted that there were no resources allocated for the implementation of activities under the subprogramme related to the right to development.

4. Some delegations regretted that the Secretariat was not in a position at the present time to inform the Committee of the actual stage of implementation of the decentralization process and stressed the importance of decentralization in that regard.

5. One delegation emphasized the importance of allocating regular budget resources under the programme to the subregional activities in the Caribbean undertaken in accordance with programme 17 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which it was observed would be in keeping with the stated intention of the United Nations and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to address the needs and concerns of small island developing countries. In that connection, that delegation recommended the insertion in paragraph 21.53 of section 21 of a specific reference to subprogramme 17.11, Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

6. Concerning paragraph 21.23 (a) (i), one delegation questioned the legislative mandate for including services for electoral assistance under the section and proposed the deletion of the reference.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, with the following modification: in the first line of paragraph 21.3, the words "developing countries, in particular" should be inserted after the words "oriented towards the needs of".

8. The Committee also recommended to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to implement fully the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph V.46 of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/50/7), which required the strengthening of the monitoring, evaluation and control of resources used in the programme.